

ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN DAILY
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LETTERS TO THE DAILY:

'U' should oust CIA recruiters

To the Daily:

We have become aware that the CIA will be conducting recruiting interviews through the Placement Office of the University of Michigan Law School on November 6. We are outraged! It is by now no secret that the CIA has been used as an instrument of repression in this country and around the world since its inception after World War II.

The direct and active role of the CIA in clandestine operations, very often involving large scale intervention in the affairs of other countries, is a matter of common knowledge. The links between the CIA and the shah of Iran, the Agency's part in the Chilean military coup in 1973, its participation in counter-revolutionary activities in Angola, Cuba, Vietnam, Guatemala, and other Third World countries are extensively documented and have been publicly revealed by the U.S. Senate. The CIA has also been involved in a number of assassination plots, one of which was the assassination of Chilean diplomat and one-time Ambassador to the U.S. Orlando Letelier and his companion, Ronni Moffet, in downtown Washington, D.C.

Here in the U.S. it has been revealed through a number of Freedom of Information Act suits that the CIA has conducted illegal mail-opening campaigns. Between 1963 and 1973 more than 215,000 first-class letters mailed by or to U.S. citizens were illegally opened and copied by the CIA. The Agency has been involved in illegal drug testing and mind control research, using the resources of universities and research institutions; has done extensive spying and surveillance on college campuses and on political organizations around the country, including here at The University of Michigan; has infiltrated national student organizations; and has collected files on a vast number of private individuals.

Even since 1976, at the height of the post-Watergate movement to reform intelligence agencies, the CIA and other agencies have responded by building a counter-movement to "unleash" the CIA. Now, in 1980, with the international scene in upheaval and with U.S. economic and political power on the decline, the intelligence scandal of the 1970s is being papered over to make way for further expansion of the spy organizations. The activities and powers of the CIA have historically revolved around the unconstitutional suppression of civil liberties and the fundamental rights of people in the U.S. and around the world.

The presence of the CIA on campus on November 6 is an outrage and an insult. The fact that the Law School Placement Office is expending resources and energy to allow an agency devoted to repressive clandestine activity to recruit future lawyers is symbolic of a much larger problem at this university. The University is effectively conditioning us, as students, to seek employment with large corporate firms or government agencies like the CIA, which can afford to pay "big bucks."

The University would like to portray itself as a neutral, value-free institution where all ideas can be evaluated equally. This, however, is precluded by the overwhelming influence which international arms manufacturers, powerful banks and finance institutions, and government agencies such as the Department of Defense and the CIA have, not only via the training and recruitment of students, but also by direct funding of University operations and research. The intimate relationship existing between the University and the military-industrial complex makes the University a defender of the existing order rather than an agent for social progress.

So when the CIA shows up on campus and offers a large salary with the promise of excitement and travel, many students jump at the chance to "serve the public," especially in these times when any job is hard to find. Rarely is the connection made between the individual job and the destructive role that the CIA plays in its protection of corporate interests throughout the world.

We would urge the University community to think seriously about this issue and to demand that the CIA not be allowed to use the University as an accessory to its crimes against the people of the United States and the world.

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The Coalition to Oppose

CIA Recruiting

November 4